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Granholtz vetoes Allen's snowmobile trail legislation

LANSING – Snowmobiling in northern Michigan ran into a 'trail closed' sign as Governor Jennifer Granholm vetoed legislation to assist in developing a trail between Gaylord and Cheboygan, announced Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City.

"I am deeply troubled by Governor Granholm's veto," Allen said. "Eliminating options for snowmobile access to northern Michigan can only hurt winter tourism. Instead of eliminating options, we need to be doing everything we can to help support the state's economy."

Senate Bill 1329 would allow snowmobiles to be operated within the right-of-way of a public limited access highway, under provisions of a joint agreement by the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources. The two departments would be in charge of establishing the details of the trail to ensure appropriate safety issues are addressed.

"Creating a link between Gaylord and Cheboygan for snowmobile traffic creates tremendous potential to increase winter tourism in northern Michigan," Allen said. "Currently there are no easy ways to travel between these two cities via snowmobile. The governor's veto only hinders our up north economy."

SB 1329 was introduced by Allen after a northern Michigan task force studying how to establish a snowmobile trail between Gaylord and Cheboygan proposed this alternative.

"Snowmobiling plays a vital role in northern Michigan's winter tourism industry and this trail is definitely needed for businesses to stay open and keep people employed," Allen said. "Governor Granholm has once again left northern Michigan out in the cold."

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